

Issue Summer Quarter 2023

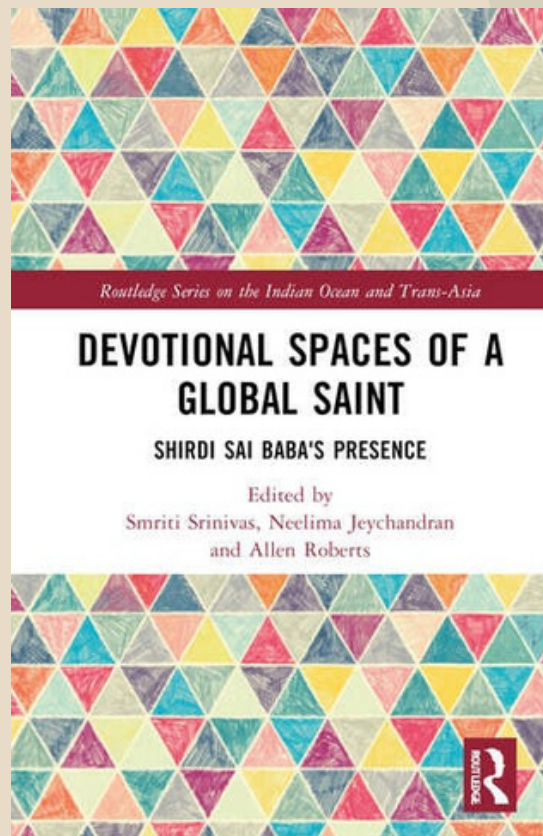
University of California Los Angeles International Institute

AFRICAN STUDIES

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NEWS AND EVENTS



The volume *Devotional Spaces of a Global Saint: Shirdi Sai Baba's Presence* for which AL Roberts (Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Dept of World Arts & Cultures/Dance [WACD]; former director, African Studies Center) served as co-editor with Smriti Srinivas (Professor of Anthropology, UC Davis) and Neelima Jeychandran (Assistant Professor of African Visual Cultures, Virginia Commonwealth University/Qatar), was published by Routledge in November 2022 and this spring by Routledge India. The book concerns a South Asian saint raised in mystical Islam but now revered by Hindus, with growing numbers of devotees in coastal West Africa and southern Africa. The volume includes an essay drawn from unpublished research by the late Mary "Polly" Nooter Roberts (d. 2018), formerly Professor of World Arts and Cultures, Deputy Director of the Fowler Museum, and Consulting Curator of African Arts at LACMA. Neelima (PhD WACD) presents her findings among Baba's followers in Ghana. AL and Smriti will present the book this fall in a mini-symposium on religious tolerance organized by the UCLA Center for the Study of Religion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fowler MUSEUM AT UCLA

The Fowler offers public programs this summer celebrating local and global arts and cultures online and in person. All programs are free. Click [here](#) to read more about the programs.

Weedie Braimah & The Hands of Time with SK Kakraba at Levitt Pavilion present West African Rhythms

Join Levitt Pavilion LA and the Fowler at MacArthur Park for a free all-ages concert featuring the drumming and dance music from Ghana. Performed by Weedie Braimah & The Hands of Time, with an opening set by master gyil (wooden xylophone) player SK Kakraba.

This program is part of the Fowler initiative “Art of Liberation: Africa and the African Diaspora,”



Sunday, July 30, 2023 (5 - 8 pm PDT)

Click [here](#) for more information.



Afro-Atlantic Histories at LACMA



Afro-Atlantic Histories charts the transatlantic slave trade and its legacies in the African diaspora. Through a series of dialogues across time, the exhibition features artworks produced in Africa, Europe, and the Americas in the last four centuries to reexamine—from a global perspective—histories and stories of enslavement, resilience, and the struggle for liberation.

The exhibition is organized around six groupings: Maps and Margins, Enslavements and Emancipations, Everyday Lives, Rites and Rhythms, Portraits, and Resistances and Activism. Each section considers the critical impact of the African diaspora reflected in historic and contemporary artworks.

Histórias Afro-Atlânticas originated at the Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand (MASP) and the Instituto Tomie Ohtake in Brazil, in 2018. Touring venues in the U.S. include the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the National Gallery of Art, and the Dallas Museum of Art. This is the only presentation on the West Coast.

Dec 11, 2022 – Sep 10, 2023

Resnick Pavilion

11 am–6 pm

[Click here](#) for more information.

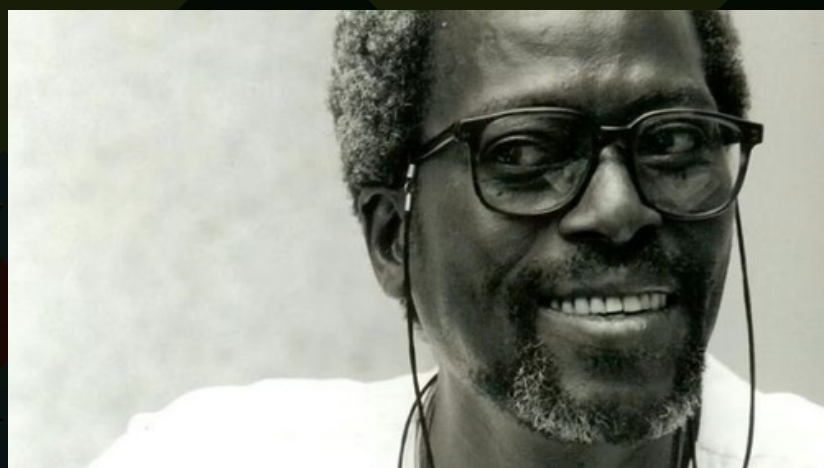
DJIBRIL DIOP MAMBÉTY: AN AMERICAN CINEMATHEQUE RETROSPECTIVE

The American Cinematheque is a member-donor-volunteer supported 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization whose mission is to celebrate the experience of cinema.

Discover the cinematic legacy of Djibril Diop Mambéty, a towering figure in world cinema, through his acclaimed features *TOUKI BOUKI* and *HYENAS*. However, these films only scratch the surface of his remarkable achievements. The retrospective highlights two medium-length masterpieces, "Le Franc" and "The Little Girl Who Sold The Sun," completing his small yet perfect filmography. These works showcase Mambéty's rich social vision, sly humor, and formal ingenuity, portraying magical realist narratives grounded in Dakar's political realities. Although he intended a trilogy titled "Tales of Ordinary People," fate allowed only "Le Franc" and "The Little Girl Who Sold The Sun" to come to life. Join us in celebrating the brilliance of one of contemporary cinema's greatest filmmakers and witness these extraordinary cinematic gems.

JULY 30 – AUGUST 20, 2023
LOS FELIZ THEATRE
1822 N Vermont Ave Los Angeles,
CA 90027

Click [here](#) for more information.



African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC)

The African Studies Center and the Department of Urban Planning have organized a joint seminar course for Fall 2023 based on the work of the African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC) which has just completed its first phase of city-based research.

The course will be held in person and virtually on Wednesdays, 10:30 - 12:00, during the quarter. The course will feature young African researchers who produced city studies on themes such as Youth and Capabilities, Safety and Security, Housing, Public Finance, and Neighborhood/District Economic Development.



Stephen Commins, Lecturer in Urban Planning at the Luskin School and co-lead for the ACRC thematic work on Safety and Security will facilitate the course.

ACRC puts forth the following: All cities are complex, dynamic, political systems. But with a fast-growing population, inadequate infrastructure and services, weak governance and limited economic development, many African cities face critical challenges. Covid-19 has only exacerbated these longstanding concerns in African cities. The African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC) is a major six-year investment by FCDO to fund new, operationally-relevant research to address intractable development challenges in African cities.

Click [here](#) to read more about ACRC.



African Studies Association Annual Meeting

The ASA Annual Meeting is the largest gathering of Africanist scholars in the world and is the flagship event of the association. With an attendance of over 2,000 scholars and professionals, the conference offers the following:

- 300 panels and roundtables
- Events featuring keynote speakers
- Award ceremony & dance party
- International exhibit hall
- Movie screenings from award winning producers
- Institutional and organizational receptions and meetings

Location:

San Francisco, California

November 30th - December 2nd 2023

Please visit their website for details:

<https://africanstudies.org/annual-meetings/>

**HERITAGE +
COLONIALISM
DISCUSSION GROUP**

CALL FOR SPEAKERS: IT'S COMPLICATED

The HCDG is a network run out of the Cambridge Heritage Research Centre that brings together a large, diverse community of people actively engaging with a vast array of topics surrounding heritage and colonialism. For the upcoming academic year (2023-2024), the HCDG invites proposals for presentations centered around the theme: “It’s Complicated”.

BUT WHAT DOES “COMPLICATED” MEAN?

The term “complicated” has often been used to dismiss or excuse action when heritage matters related to colonialism are discussed. The theme “It’s Complicated” seeks to reclaim the word as a tool for unravelling nuanced colonial issues throughout time and exploring the barriers as well as the potential avenues for engaging with them in the present.

By this call, we encourage submissions from all disciplines and professions that address colonial issues that may be characterised as “complicated” with the view to exploring their complexity.

Application deadline: 20 AUGUST 2023 (GMT 23:59)
**Applicants will be notified about the outcome of
their submissions by 31 August 2023.**

Click [here](#) for more information.

Sophie Zane: Blending Academics and Activism for Meaningful Impact



Sophie Zane, a dedicated senior at UCLA, has always been driven to make a positive impact on the world. Growing up in a family that emphasized volunteering, she believes in taking action to solve problems. At UCLA, she pursued a double major in international development studies (IDS) and European Languages and Transcultural Studies (ELTS) with a focus on French and Francophone studies. Immersed in French-language courses, Zane particularly enjoyed a literature class that explored the topic of child soldiers in Sub-Saharan Africa. Zane found her path to the IDS program through her interest in international development. She took advantage of the program's flexibility, specializing in Africa and the Middle East through geography courses. Courses such as Culture, Power and Development and a senior capstone seminar honed her skills in argument identification and analysis. For her honors thesis, Zane delved into the topic of refugee rights in Uganda, Türkiye, and Germany, overcoming the challenge of reading source documents in German.

Alongside her studies, Zane actively participated in social justice causes. She volunteered at the LA offices of the U.S. Movement for Trust, Racial Healing, and Transformation, interned at the Center for Policing Equity, and served as a volunteer for JusticeCorps, assisting litigants representing themselves in court due to financial constraints.

Sophie Zane's journey demonstrates the power of combining academics with activism. Her unwavering commitment to social justice, extensive research contributions, and exceptional academic achievements provide a strong foundation for her future work in advocating for human rights and creating meaningful change.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Student Exchange Program

Each year, the U.S. Department of State sponsors about 1,700 high school students from around the world to spend the academic year in America, attending local high schools and living with families in urban, rural, and suburban communities in all 50 states. These exchange students participate in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX), Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX), and Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Programs.

Bring the world into your home, family and community by hosting an international high school exchange student. By hosting a student for a few weeks or an academic year, you'll share cultures and form bonds that last a lifetime.

Check out the impact Oumou, a YES student from Mali, made during her exchange year and what her host family, friends, and school had to say about welcoming her to their community.

FACULTY NEWS



Professor Oumar Boum recently received the top award (“Gold Medal”) for 2023 graphic novel/drawn work from the Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPY) for his work of historical fiction, “Undesirables: A Holocaust Journey to North Africa” (Stanford, 2023), together with illustrator Nadjib Berber.

Professor Victor Agadjanian recently published two journals back in March and May 2023 titled: “The Covid-19 pandemic, social ties, and psychosocial wellbeing of middle-aged women in rural Africa” and “Linking labor migration and food security in rural Mozambique: Do agricultural investment, asset building, and local employment matter”.



Stephanie Bosch Santana, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, has been awarded a Mellon Data and Social Justice Course Development Grant for the 2023–2024 academic year. Professor Bosch Santana will use the grant to further develop her “Digital Africa and the World” class through a collaboration with the Story Club in Malawi. Open to graduate students and advanced undergraduates, the course will partner with the Story Club to produce literature and arts-based programs that can be aired on the Story Club’s online radio station, the first in the country dedicated to arts and culture. “Digital Africa and the World” will be offered as a Comparative Literature course in Spring 2024.

The Distinguished Teaching Award recognizes exceptional teaching and a commitment to student success. Six Senate Faculty, three Non-Senate Faculty, and five Teaching Assistants are selected from a highly competitive pool of nominees each year to receive the award.

This year, Professor Hannah Appel and Peter Hudson won two of six awards reserved for UCLA Senate faculty members for their demonstrated passion for teaching, their drive to continually improve teaching practices, and their significant impact on the lives of their students.



Hannah Appel is an associate professor of Anthropology and a member of the African Studies Center Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC).

Peter Hudson is an associate professor of African American Studies and History. He and Professor Jemima Pierre recently organized an incredible two-day symposium on The Political Economy of the Black World II.





Degenhart Brown (PhD candidate, Dept of World Arts & Cultures/Dance) continues dissertation research on religion and traditional medicine in and around Porto-Novo, Republic of Benin, with a recently conferred Fulbright-Hays permitting him to extend his studies.

Talia Lieber (PhD candidate, Department of Art History and former Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies*) has completed her dissertation research on the place of art histories in Rwandan museums and is currently writing her dissertation.



OPEN POSITIONS

The Department of History at the State University of New York at Buffalo, invites applications for TWO open-rank, tenure-track positions in African History. One position is open to all fields and this second position prioritizes Science, Health, or Disability broadly conceived, including intersections with religion, environment, gender, sexuality, etc. Salary and compensation will be competitive, commensurate with rank and achievement.

Review of applications will begin on October 2, 2023.

For more information, click [here](#).



Associate Director, Center for African Studies

School of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford, California

The Center for African Studies at Stanford University is a crucial interdisciplinary hub for African Studies research and education. The Associate Director is responsible for leadership in strategic planning, program development, outreach, financial management, and relationship building. They oversee research opportunities, manage the African Studies specialization, handle communication strategies, and mentor students and scholars. Collaborating with the Program Coordinator and students, they ensure seamless day-to-day operations.

Requirements for the Ideal Candidate:

1. Extensive and direct administrative experience with emphasis on program development and management, budgeting, and staff supervision in an academic environment.
2. Demonstrated ability to facilitate interdisciplinary research programs.
3. Skill in building rapport with both campus and off-campus audiences.
4. Proficiency in leading student advising and public outreach efforts.
5. Expert knowledge of African cultures, relevant languages, and networks.
6. Highly desirable to have prior administrative acumen rather than teaching or independent research focus.
7. Potential opportunities for teaching, depending on experience and interest.

Click [here](#) for more information.

ASC Staff

Harold Torrence, Director

Erica Anjum, Deputy Director

Sheila Breeding, Budget & Program Manager

Dirsa Deandaru, Graduate Student Assistant

James McCann, Student Assistant

African Arts Journal

Leslie Ellen Jones, Editor



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